

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend claims 42 and 43 as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A biomedical device comprising a substrate and a polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate by covalent bonding using crosslinking agents, antibody-antigen associations, specific binding protein-receptor associations or enzyme-substrate associations, wherein the crosslinking agents comprise at least two aldehyde functional groups that form covalent bonds to link the crosslinking agent directly with the polypeptide growth factor and the substrate, the polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the crosslinking agent comprises difunctional aldehydes.

4. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 3 wherein the difunctional aldehyde comprises glutaraldehyde.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises tissue.

9. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises human tissue.

10. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of porcine tissue, bovine tissue, kangaroo tissue, canine tissue and a combination thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide growth factor comprises vascular endothelial growth factor.

14. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide growth factor comprises Tat protein.

15. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 1 wherein the

biomedical device comprises an artificial organ, a heart valve prosthesis, an annuloplasty ring, a stent, a pledget, suture, an electrical lead, a permanently in-dwelling percutaneous device, an AV shunt, a vascular graft, a dermal graft or a surgical patch.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Amended) A biomedical device comprising a biocompatible substrate and a polypeptide growth factor associated with the biocompatible substrate, the polypeptide growth factor being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate, wherein the polypeptide growth factor comprises Tat protein.

29. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 28 wherein the biocompatible substrate comprises tissue.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 28 further comprising an adhesive, the adhesive being associated with the polypeptide growth factor and the substrate.

34. (Previously Amended) A biomedical device comprising a substrate and a polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate by antibody-antigen associations, specific binding protein-receptor associations or enzyme-substrate associations, the polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate.

35. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 34 wherein the biocompatible substrate comprises tissue.

36. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 34 wherein the biocompatible substrate comprises a synthetic material.

37. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 34 wherein the substrate comprises a bioresorbable material.

38. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 34 wherein the polypeptide growth factor is associated with the substrate by antibody-antigen associations.

39. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 34 wherein the polypeptide growth factor is associated with the substrate by specific binding protein-receptor associations.

40. (Previously Amended) The biomedical device of claim 34 wherein the polypeptide growth factor is associated with the substrate by enzyme-substrate associations.

41. (Previously Added) A prosthesis comprising a substrate and a polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate, the polypeptide growth factor being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate, said polypeptide growth factor comprises Tat protein.

42. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis of claim 41 [further comprising an adhesive, the adhesive being associated with] wherein the polypeptide growth factor is associated with [and] the substrate by covalent bonding using crosslinking agents, antibody-antigen associations, specific binding protein-receptor associations, enzyme-substrate associations, or an adhesive.

43. (Currently Amended) The biomedical device of claim 28[1] comprising a crosslinking agent, said crosslinking agent associates the growth factor to the biocompatible substrate.